

b-3545(a)

13 MAY 1961

Honorable Henry Dworshak  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Dworkin:

This is in response to your letter regarding a report by [redacted] that the USSR has a nuclear powered aircraft.

We have previously studied this and other reports of the same type and determined that the characteristics attributed to this nuclear aircraft are far beyond the technical capabilities of the Soviet aircraft and nuclear industries. The reported cruising speed of 2500 miles per hour would mean that the air entering the aircraft would be heated by compression to about 1100° F. Further, heating of this air to provide thrust for propulsion would raise the temperature far beyond the temperature limits of the nuclear engine's structural material.

If further information is desired, please let us know.

Sacerdotal.

**SECRET**

**Allen W. Dulles**  
**Director**

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		INITIALS	DATE
1	DD/I - 354 Admin		RAG	5/9/61
3	IG - 231 Admin (out of town until Wed.)		LBR	20 May
2	DCI - 203 Admin		W	
4	DCI - 221 Admin			
5				
6				
	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	

Remarks:

Letter to be hand carried by Legislative  
Counsel after signature by DCI.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER	
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
OGC/LC - 221 East	8 May 61
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4 MAY 1961

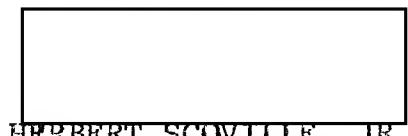
BRIEF FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Letter from Senator Henry Dworshak, dated 1 May 1961

1. Enclosed for your signature is a reply to a letter from Senator Dworshak concerning a report that the USSR has a nuclear powered aircraft.

2. A letter from Senator Dworshak requested a report concerning this development described in a UPI dispatch printed in the Idaho newspapers. The attached reply states that the flight characteristics of the reported nuclear aircraft are beyond the technical capabilities of the Soviet aircraft and nuclear industries and that [redacted] the STAT originator of this report, is a well-known fabricator of sensational intelligence reports.

3. Recommend that you sign the attached reply.



STAT

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

Enclosure: Letter to Senator Henry Dworshak

STAT

**Community:** [Redacted] has long been judged to be a permanent  
fear factor in our community.

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## Allen E. Miller

INTEGRATED EIT | Nuclear Energy Division

4 May 1968 STAT

STAT

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4-IV-1962

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**Rewritten by John S. Warner**

8 May 1961

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STAT

**Reporting Director/Intelligence**

3 MAY 1

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OSI/NED/MSP, [redacted]:jag (4 May 1961)  
Distribution:  
Orig. 4 1 - addressee 1 - Leg. Counsel  
1 - NCI 1 - Exec. Reg.  
1 - DDCI 2 - SP/SI

STAT

**Letter to Honorable Henry M. Jackson, United States Senate**

**ORIGINATED BY:**

[redacted]

Chief, Nuclear Energy Division/OSI

**4 May 1961 STAT**  
Date

**CONCURRENCES:**

/s/ H. Scoville, Jr.

Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence

**4 May 1961**

Date

Rewritten by John S. Warner

Legislative Counsel

**4 May 1961**

Date

Deputy Director/Intelligence

**8 MAY 1961**

Date

STAT  
OSI/NED/P&P/[redacted]:jag/[redacted] (4 May 1961)

STAT

Rewritten: OGC/LC:JRW:mkh/[redacted] (8 May 1961)

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**Distribution:**

& 1 - Addressee (Hand carry by Leg. C.)

1 - DCI

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2 - NED/OSI

1 - Legislative Counsel w/basic

STAT  
~~Dear Senator Harry S. Truman,  
United States Senate,  
Washington 25, D.C.~~

Dear Director Stansfield:

STAT  
This is in response to your letter regarding a report by [redacted] that the USSR has a nuclear powered aircraft.

We have previously studied this and other reports of the same type and determined that the characteristics attributed to this nuclear aircraft are far beyond the technical capabilities of the Soviet aircraft and nuclear industries. For example, if the plane flew at the reported maximum speed of 2500 miles per hour, the air entering the aircraft would be heated by compression to about 2100°F. Thus the temperature of the air at the intake of the nuclear engine would be at the maximum temperature limit of the engine's structural materials and further heating for propulsion could not be introduced without melting a wide-dose of the engine.

STAT  
This report is [redacted] to one of the many that we have distributed concerning various subjects to the intelligence

WPA 12 1-25-64-81

Rumsey